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Agenda item 3

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Commission on the Status of Women takes note of the proposed programme of work of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat for the biennium 1998-1999 contained in document E/CN.6/1997/CRP.2, and offers the following comments:

(a) Efforts should go forward to improve service to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the decision for the Committee to hold two regular annual sessions in 1997 onwards, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/68 of 12 December 1996, in order to deal with the increasing number of States parties' reports submitted under article 18 of the Convention;

(b) Sufficient resources should be made available to the Division for the Advancement of Women to effectively provide increased substantive support to the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, in view of the importance placed on the work of the Special Adviser and the Division in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, including the work of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality;

(c) The Commission supports the increased efforts by the Division for the Advancement of Women to contribute actively to mainstreaming the human rights of women within the general human rights activities of the United Nations, and the increased cooperation between the Division and the Centre for Human Rights for that purpose, as shown in the joint programme of work presented for 1997, and underlines the importance of devoting a portion of the resources for technical assistance available to the Centre to mainstreaming women's human rights, in cooperation with the Division;

(d) Intensified activities in coordination and outreach by the Division, including its recurrent publications, is appreciated, in particular the proposal to continue the publication Women 2000 in its new streamlined format as an important outlet for emerging issues in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, for dissemination to Governments and non-governmental organizations, as well as the WomenWatch web site being developed jointly by the Division, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which provides information electronically in a timely fashion on the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and Governments, including the text of national action plans or strategies.